

Message

---

**From:** Kasman, Mark [Kasman.Mark@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 3/22/2022 5:26:48 PM  
**To:** Buckley, Katherine [Buckley.Katherine@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** FW: Russia-Ukraine Update for Tuesday, March 22, 2022

FYI

---

**From:** Dieu, Martin <Dieu.Martin@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2022 1:26 PM  
**To:** Nishida, Jane <Nishida.Jane@epa.gov>; Kasman, Mark <Kasman.Mark@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Hackel, Angela <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Russia-Ukraine Update for Tuesday, March 22, 2022

Fyi – use link to sign up for daily updates on Ukraine.

---

**From:** Gillespie, Taylor <Gillespie.Taylor@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2022 1:24 PM  
**To:** Career Public Affairs Directors <Career\_Public\_Affairs\_Directors@epa.gov>; Career Communications Directors <Career\_Communications\_Directors@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Russia-Ukraine Update for Tuesday, March 22, 2022

Good Afternoon – Cision has been creating a daily briefing for the Russia-Ukraine conflict free of charge. If you would like to receive this daily briefing please email [RUUAUpdate@BulletinIntelligence.com](mailto:RUUAUpdate@BulletinIntelligence.com) to sign up.

Thanks,

Taylor Gillespie (she/her)  
Strategic Communications Advisor  
Environmental Protection Agency  
872-276-3635 (mobile)  
*Twitter:* @EPAPressOffice

---

**From:** Cision Insights <[ruuaupdate@BulletinIntelligence.com](mailto:ruuaupdate@BulletinIntelligence.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2022 6:30 AM  
**To:** [ruuaupdate@BulletinIntelligence.com](mailto:ruuaupdate@BulletinIntelligence.com)  
**Subject:** Russia-Ukraine Update for Tuesday, March 22, 2022

**Click to access** mobile-optimized online version, including download options and an audio reader.

Tuesday, March 22, 2022 6:30 AM EDT

## Today's Table of Contents

---

### Leading the News

- Biden Warns Of Potential Russian Cyber, Chemical Attacks.

### Politics and Government

- Despite Growing Support, EU Still Split On Enhanced Sanctions On Russian Energy Sector.
- Zelensky Suggests Openness To Compromise On Russian Demands.
- Russian Foreign Ministry Summons US Ambassador Over Biden "War Criminal" Claim.
- Bennett Defends Israel's Aid To Ukraine In Response To Zelensky's Criticism.
- Despite War, US Keeping Long-Term Security Focus On China.
- Russia Bars Facebook, Instagram, But Allows WhatsApp To Continue.

### Economic Impacts

- Global Investigation Identifies More Than \$17B In Assets Linked To Russian Oligarchs, Officials.
- Business Leaders Invited To White House To Discuss Supply Chain Issues Surrounding Ukraine Conflict.
- Weatherford International Suspends New Investment, Tech Deployment In Russia.
- Activists Spray-paint TotalEnergies' Headquarters Over Russia Ties.
- Russia Still Paying Transit Fees For Natural Gas Delivered Via Ukraine.

### Also in the News

- As Russian Offensive Appears Stalled, Bombardment Of Cities, Assault On Mariupol Continues.
- Germany Expecting Up To A Million Ukrainian Refugees.
- Grossi: Deal Near On Securing Ukraine's Nuclear Facilities.
- NATO Seeks To Secure Access To Baltic Members.
- Report: Russians Having Harder Time Getting Asylum In US.
- WSJOURNAL Praises European Nations Moving To Rearm.

### Leading the News

---

#### **Biden Warns Of Potential Russian Cyber, Chemical Attacks.**

The [AP](#) (3/21, Suderman) reports that in an address to CEOs of the Business Roundtable on Monday, President Biden "urged U.S. companies to make sure their digital doors are locked tight because of 'evolving intelligence' that Russia is considering launching cyberattacks against critical infrastructure targets." Biden "told the business

leaders they have a 'patriotic obligation' to harden their systems against such attacks. He said federal assistance is available, should they want it, but that the decision is theirs alone." [CNN](#) (3/21, Vazquez, Judd, Lyngaas) reports Biden said, "The magnitude of Russia's cyber capacity is fairly consequential and it's coming." Major Garrett reported for [The CBS Evening News](#) (3/21, 6:39 p.m. EST, story 3, 1:55, O'Donnell), "This has been a long running concern, so why the alarm bells? US intelligence has detected what it calls preparatory activities that could signal a large scale Russian set of attacks, hacks or software viruses. Targets of most concern: big banks, pipelines, water systems, electrical grids."

[BBC News](#) (3/21) reports "this latest warning does suggest US intelligence has seen some indications of Russian activity on computer networks that could be the prelude for some kind of attack – however, they acknowledge that this does not mean that such an attack will definitely take place."

[Reuters](#) (3/21, Bose, Alper) reports the President also warned that Russian President Vladimir Putin is considering the use of chemical and biological weapons in Ukraine. Biden said Putin's "back is against the wall and now he's talking about new false flags he's setting up including, asserting that we in America have biological as well as chemical weapons in Europe, simply not true," adding, "They are also suggesting that Ukraine has biological and chemical weapons in Ukraine. That's a clear sign he's considering using both of those." In its running update, [CNN](#) (3/21) reports that Biden told the CEOs, "Whenever he starts talking about something he thinks NATO, Ukraine or the United States is about to do, it means he's getting ready to do it. Not a joke."

[The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (3/22, Borger) reports Biden's remarks "echo previous comments by officials in Washington and allied countries, who have accused Russia of spreading an unproven claim that Ukraine had a biological weapons program as a possible prelude to potentially launching its own biological or chemical attacks."

***Biden Appears To Confirm Russia Used Hypersonic Missile In Ukraine.*** [Politico](#) (3/21, Forgey) reports Russia "may have launched a hypersonic missile over the weekend in an assault on a Ukrainian munitions depot, a senior Defense Department official said Monday, but Moscow's claim about the nature of the weapon is 'a bit of a head-scratcher.'" However, President Biden "appeared to confirm Russia's use of hypersonic missiles when speaking Monday night at the Business Roundtable's CEO quarterly meeting," where he said, "They've just launched a hypersonic missile because it's the only thing that they can get through with absolute certainty."

***Biden: India's Response To War "Somewhat Shaky."*** [Deutsche Welle \(DEU\)](#) (3/22) reports Biden also "said India's response to the war in Ukraine was 'somewhat shaky' and an exception among Washington's allies." Biden said, "The Quad is, with the possible exception of India being somewhat shaky on some of this, but Japan has been extremely strong — so has Australia — in terms of dealing with Putin's aggression."

***Administration Warned Earlier In The Day Of Potential Russian Cyberattacks.*** [Reuters](#) (3/21, Shakil) reports that in a statement earlier on Monday, Biden warned there was "evolving intelligence" that the Russian government was considering options for potential cyberattacks. The President said, "I urge our private sector partners to harden your cyber defenses immediately," adding everyone needed "to do their part to meet one of the defining threats of our time." [CNN](#) (3/21, Vazquez, Judd, Lyngaas) reports Biden said his team would "continue to use every tool to deter, disrupt, and if necessary, respond to cyber attacks against critical infrastructure," but added that "the federal government can't defend against this threat alone."

[Bloomberg](#) (3/21) says that while the White House "provided few details about the nature of the threat, the president's message underscored the continuing threat in cyberspace for U.S. businesses and organizations."

Politico (3/21) says the statement is significant because it “came under the president’s own name. It also referred to new intelligence about attacks being planned instead of potential Russian cyber activities.”

The AP (3/21, Suderman) reports that Anne Neuberger, the President’s top cyber aide, “expressed frustration at a White House press briefing Monday that some critical infrastructure entities have ignored alerts from federal agencies to fix known problems in software that could be exploited by Russian hackers.” Neuberger said, “Notwithstanding these repeated warnings, we continue to see adversaries compromising systems that use known vulnerabilities for which there are patches. That makes it far easier for attackers than it needs to be.” The New York Times (3/21, Kanno-Youngs) reports Neuberger “said the administration recently observed ‘preparatory activity’ for potential hacking of American infrastructure, and had shared that information with companies in a classified briefing last week.” The Hill (3/21, Chalfant), among others, also reports on the White House warning.

***President Held Call With European Leaders Monday.*** The Hill (3/21, Samuels) reports Biden on Monday held a call with French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi. White House press secretary Jen Psaki said the leaders “discussed their serious concerns about Russia’s brutal tactics in Ukraine, including its attacks on civilians.” The AP (3/21, Long, Knickmeyer) reports the leaders “also reviewed recent diplomatic efforts in support of Ukraine’s effort to reach a ceasefire. Psaki said she thought the leaders would continue to be in touch routinely on the conflict.”

***Sherman: There Will Be “Severe Costs” If Russia Uses Chemical Weapons.*** Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman was asked on MSNBC’s Andrea Mitchell Reports (3/21) what the US would do if Russia were to use chemical weapons. Sherman said, “This will certainly be on the agenda when the President travels to Brussels later this week, and then on to Poland. He will be meeting with NATO allies, with the European Council, and with the G7, and our concern about the use of chemical and biological weapons will certainly be on that agenda. We are very concerned that President Putin may decided to this out of desperation. He certainly has used these weapons in the past on individuals to attempt assassinations by poisoning people in support of Assad’s brutality in Syria. So we are quite concerned about this, and the President has said, Secretary Blinken has said, we have all said in our discussions with the media that there will be severe costs to Russia should they take such a horrible action.”

## Politics and Government

---

### **Despite Growing Support, EU Still Split On Enhanced Sanctions On Russian Energy Sector.**

The AP (3/21, Cook) reports the EU on Monday “accused Russia’s military of committing war crimes in Ukraine, but appeared unlikely to impose new sanctions on Moscow despite a clamor across Europe for those responsible for attacks on civilians to be held to account.” The AP adds a “group of countries led by Germany wants a pause on new sanctions for now, amid concerns about high energy prices and fears that Russia might halt gas exports to Europe. Some also want to save sanction ammunition for any new and major war atrocity, like the use of chemical weapons.”

Reuters (3/21, Melander, Siebold) reports the EU’s foreign ministers “disagreed” on “whether and how to slap sanctions on Russia’s lucrative energy sector over its invasion of Ukraine, with Germany saying the bloc was too dependent on Russian oil to decide an embargo.” German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock told

reporters, “The question of an oil embargo is not a question of whether we want or don’t want (it), but a question of how much we depend on oil.” Still, the Wall Street Journal (3/21, Kantchev) says support for an EU-wide ban on the purchase of Russia oil is growing, according to diplomats involved in the talks, a “significant shift” in Europe’s response to the invasion.

In a preview of Biden’s trip to Europe, Olivier Knox writes for the Washington Post (3/21) that the NATO summit will be the “centerpiece” of the trip, but “beyond restating an ‘ironclad commitment’ to defend ‘every inch’ of NATO territory, and a likely new push to give Ukrainian anti-armor and air-defense systems, it’s not clear what the alliance could announce.”

***Politico Analysis: US Lacks Capacity To Substantially Increase LNG Exports To The EU.*** Politico (3/21, Colman, Lefebvre) says the EU “wants the United States’ help in kicking its addiction to Russian natural gas. But President Joe Biden faces big limits in what he can promise when he visits the continent this week.” According to Politico, “Europe’s main request is more liquefied natural gas from the U.S. ... But American gas exporters are already shipping their LNG overseas nearly as fast as they can, with little new capacity due to come online during the next two years.” Politico adds that Biden “cannot command the activities of private oil and gas companies – who will typically sell their product wherever in the world they can fetch the highest price.”

***White House Believes Russia Already Seeing Dramatic Decline In Oil Sales.*** The Washington Post (3/21) reports that senior White House aides “believe that Russia is suffering a dramatic decline in oil sales that stands to deprive the Kremlin of a key source of government revenue, according to a senior administration official and one person briefed by a senior administration official.” The Administration “is examining private industry data showing that sales of Russian crude oil by vessel went from roughly 2 million barrels a day to close to zero between March 15 and March 20, the people said. The official said that more than 2 million barrels of Russian oil sold per day have been taken out of the market and that Asian buyers are not stepping in to fully fill the gap.”

***Singh: US Still Has Room To “Broaden” Sanctions.*** The CBS Evening News  (3/21, 6:41 p.m. EST, story 4, 1:05, O'Donnell) interviewed Deputy NSA Singh, the “architect” of the Russian sanctions, who said, “We can broaden our sanctions, so, take the measures, take the sanctions we’ve already applied, apply them to more target, apply them to more sectors.” Singh added that such sectors include “the commanding heights of the Russian economy. It’s mostly about oil & gas, but there are other sectors too, I don’t want to specify them, but I think Putin would know what those are.”


***Toomey Calls For Secondary Sanctions Targeting Russian Energy Industry.*** In a Wall Street Journal (3/21) op-ed, Sen. Pat Toomey (R-PA) says the sanctions imposed by the US have been “damaging” to the Russian economy, they have not been “crippling.” He calls for the US to push through “secondary sanctions” on the entirety of the Russian gas and energy sector, but with wind-down periods to allow allies dependent on Russian exports to have time to make alternate arrangements. He also calls for boosting US energy production.

## **Zelensky Suggests Openness To Compromise On Russian Demands.**

Le Monde (FRA) (3/22) reports that for the first time, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said that he was open to (as translated) “trying to address everything that upsets and displeases Russia.” He added in his call with reporters, “The issue of Crimea and Donbass is a very difficult story for everyone.” Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (DEU) (3/22) reports Zelensky wants any negotiated agreements to be backed by a national referendum.

## **Russian Foreign Ministry Summons US Ambassador Over Biden “War Criminal” Claim.**

Reuters (3/21) reports that the Russian Foreign Ministry “said on Monday it had summoned U.S. Ambassador John Sullivan to tell him that President Joe Biden’s calling Russian President Vladimir Putin a ‘war criminal’ had pushed bilateral ties to the brink of collapse. ... ‘Such statements from the American president, unworthy of a statesman of such high rank, put Russian-American relations on the verge of rupture,’ the ministry said in a statement.” The Hill (3/21, Chalfant) reports State Department spokesman Ned Price said, “Ambassador Sullivan took advantage of this encounter to demand that the Russian government follow international law, and basic human decency for that matter, and allow consular access to all U.S. citizen detainees in Russia, including those in pretrial detention.”

Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman was asked on MSNBC’s Andrea Mitchell Reports  (3/21) about Russia possibly breaking relations with the US. Sherman said, “Vladimir Putin has been doing horrible things to the people of Ukraine. ... I think that we all have seen what we have seen. We know what’s happening and Vladimir Putin is responsible.” Sherman said, “We think it’s important always to maintain diplomatic relationships because that’s a method of communications and that’s particularly critical in this circumstance, but that said, I think that what we’re seeing by that message, if that is indeed what’s been conveyed to Ambassador Sullivan this morning...it just shows how desperate President Putin is becoming because his military has not operated in the way he’d hoped.”

## **Bennett Defends Israel’s Aid To Ukraine In Response To Zelensky’s Criticism.**

The Jerusalem Post (ISR) (3/21) reports Prime Minister Naftali Bennett made the case on Monday that Israelis “should be proud of their country’s generosity to Ukraine.” The Post says Bennett was “defending Jerusalem’s approach the day after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky sharply criticized it but softened his tone later.” Bennett said, “We are managing this unfortunate crisis sensitively, generously, and responsibly, while balancing the different considerations – and they are complex. ... Israel and the Israeli public can be proud of the aid and contribution of the State of Israel to the citizens of Ukraine. Be proud of the actions Israel has taken. ... There are not many countries who have done as much.” Over the weekend, Zelensky told Israeli lawmakers that Israel should supply Ukraine with weapons and should sanction Russia. Zelensky said, “You can mediate between countries but not between good and evil.”

The Times Of Israel (3/21) reports that “late on Sunday,” Zelensky “changed tack and thanked Israel in his nightly video address, after criticizing Israel bitterly in a speech to its lawmakers earlier in the day. ‘Of course, Israel has its interests, strategy to protect its citizens. We understand all of it,’ Zelensky said in a video he posts daily to social media.” Zelensky added, “The prime minister of Israel, Mr. Bennett, is trying to find a way of holding talks. And we are grateful for this. We are grateful for his efforts, so that sooner or later we will begin to have talks with Russia, possibly in Jerusalem.” Reuters (3/21) reports that Bennett, “who has been trying to mediate an end to the Ukraine-Russia conflict, said on Monday that despite some progress big gaps remained between the sides. ‘There’s still a long way to go, because...there are several issues in dispute, some of them fundamental,’ he said.”

## **Despite War, US Keeping Long-Term Security Focus On China.**

The Wall Street Journal (3/21, Lubold, Cloud, Wise) reports that despite the current focus on the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the US remains committed to focusing on countering the rise of China, according to a senior Pentagon official. The official said, "China remains in our assessment the only country that can systematically challenge the United States for now and for the rest of this century, that means diplomatically, technologically, economically, militarily, geopolitically. And Russia is not in that camp, they weren't a year ago, they're not today."

*China, Russia Likely To Develop Closer Defense Industry Ties As A Result Of War.* The Washington Post (3/21, Shepherd) says that whether or not China becomes directly involved in the invasion of Ukraine, the conflict "is shaping up to be an important milestone in the two countries' military partnership, much like the annexation of Crimea in 2014." The Kremlin's "reliance on China after its Ukraine invasion could accelerate nascent joint technology development and operations" at a "time of growing political alignment between the two nations."

### **Russia Bars Facebook, Instagram, But Allows WhatsApp To Continue.**

Reuters (3/21) reports a Russia court ruled on Monday that Meta "was guilty of 'extremist activity', but the ruling will not affect its WhatsApp messenger service, focusing on the U.S. firm's already-banned Facebook and Instagram social networks." It was "not clear whether Meta would appeal the outlawing of the activities of Facebook and Instagram in Russia 'on the grounds of realising extremist activity', a ban TASS cited judge Olga Solopova as saying would be enforced immediately."

## **Economic Impacts**

---

### **Global Investigation Identifies More Than \$17B In Assets Linked To Russian Oligarchs, Officials.**

The Guardian (UK) (3/21, Jolly) reports an investigation conducted in conjunction with the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project and other international media organizations found "more than \$17bn (£13bn) of global assets," including "offshore bank accounts, yachts, private jets and luxury properties in London, Tuscany and the French Riviera," which "have been linked to 35 oligarchs and Russian officials alleged to have close ties to Vladimir Putin." CNN (3/21, Valinsky) reports OCCRP publisher Drew Sullivan said, "Russia under Vladimir Putin has been controlled by a very small group of people, enablers who keep him in power while benefiting from his patronage system at the expense of the Russian people."

In a more than 2,000-word piece, the New York Times (3/21, Goldstein, Enrich) examines the extensive network of shell companies and other entities Roman Abramovich has used to hide his investments in the West, including in the US.

*Oligarch's "Super-Yacht" Seized In Gibraltar.* Reuters (3/21) reports a "luxurious super-yacht linked to" Russian steel magnate Dmitrievich Pumpysky, "docked in Gibraltar on Monday and was then detained by the authorities." The government of Gibraltar "confirmed in a statement that the Axioma had arrived in port after asking permission to enter and 'was confirmed to be the subject of an arrest action by a leading international bank in the Supreme Court of Gibraltar.'"

The Wall Street Journal (3/21, Sylvers, Fontdegloria, Cleveland-Peck) reports on the flight of yachts linked to sanctioned Russians as they attempt to avoid being seized, along with those that have been detained by authorities, mostly in the EU. Meanwhile, Bloomberg (3/21, Bilgic) reports Roman Abramovich's super-yacht

Solaris “has reached Turkish shores as the Russian billionaire contends with sanctions from the European Union and U.K. Solaris, which departed Barcelona on March 8, was located just south of the tourism resort of Bodrum in southwestern Turkey, according to vessel data compiled by Bloomberg,” while another vessel owned by Abramovich, the Eclipse, is “south of Karpathos, Greece.”

#### ***S&P Withdrawing Credit Ratings For Russian Entities In Compliance With EU Sanctions.***

Bloomberg (3/21, Maki) reports S&P Global Ratings “is withdrawing its credit grades on Russian entities after the European Union’s decision last week to ban firms from providing ratings to companies established in the country.” The withdrawal “will take place before the April 15 deadline imposed by the EU, analysts Michelle James and Arnaud Humblot wrote in a Monday statement.” The company had already suspended commercial operations in the country.

#### **Business Leaders Invited To White House To Discuss Supply Chain Issues Surrounding Ukraine Conflict.**

Reuters (3/21, Renshaw) reports, “The White House invited executives from an array of U.S. industries and businesses, including energy, food, and banks, to a briefing Monday on the Russia-Ukraine conflict, a White House official said.” The Biden Administration is looking to address “supply chain issues surrounding Russia’s Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine and ways to lessen the economic shocks, a source familiar with the plan told Reuters.”

#### **Weatherford International Suspends New Investment, Tech Deployment In Russia.**

The Washington Times (3/21, Glenn) reports Houston-based oilfield services company Weatherford International on Sunday “decided to suspend making any new investments and deploying new technology following the implementation of sanctions after the Russian invasion on Feb. 24.” Weatherford’s decision follows similar moves by competitors Halliburton, Schlumberger, and Baker Hughes in recent days.

#### **Activists Spray-paint TotalEnergies’ Headquarters Over Russia Ties.**

Reuters (3/21, Hummel, Mallet) reports, “Pressure mounted on TotalEnergies over its ties to Russia as activists spray-painted its headquarters west of Paris on Monday and France’s green presidential candidate accused the company and its boss of complicity with the Kremlin.” TotalEnergies “has become increasingly isolated among oil majors as it holds on to its interests in Russia despite the latter’s invasion of Ukraine.” Environmental activists “said they had sprayed black paint on the glass doors at the entrance of TotalEnergies’ building in the La Defense business district, posting a video of around a dozen activists dressed in yellow vests.” In February, TotalEnergies “condemned what it called Moscow’s military aggression in Ukraine, but stopped short of joining rivals Shell, BP, and ExxonMobil, in announcing an exit from its interests in resource-rich Russia.”

#### **Russia Still Paying Transit Fees For Natural Gas Delivered Via Ukraine.**

Bloomberg (3/21) reports, “Russian natural gas transit to Europe via Ukraine is continuing as normal despite the war, and Moscow is still paying in ‘hard currency’ for the trans-shipment services,” according to NJSC Naftogaz Ukrainy CEO Yuriy Vitrenko. He told Bloomberg TV that the deliveries would keep going as long as “technically possible.” Vitrenko “reiterated his call to Europe and its allies to put payments for Moscow’s energy flows in an escrow account until Russian President Vladimir Putin withdraws troops.” He added, “But when it comes to the




transit infrastructure, it's obvious that they are very, very careful not to damage it," as they "don't want to hurt their own commercial interest and their commercial relationship with the West."


## Also in the News

---

### **As Russian Offensive Appears Stalled, Bombardment Of Cities, Assault On Mariupol Continues.**


The Wall Street Journal (3/21, A1, Luxmoore, Cullison) reports that with Russia's offense apparently stalled, Russia is increasingly hitting civilian areas in an attempt to pressure the Ukrainian government into granting concessions.

In its running update, the New York Times (3/21, Kramer, Santora) reports that strikes "on cities across Ukraine left a patchwork of death and destruction on Monday, including one that blasted a once-bustling shopping mall in Kyiv into a smoldering ruin with one of the most powerful explosions to hit the city since Russia's war on Ukraine began." Ian Pannell reported for ABC World News Tonight  (3/21, 6:38 p.m. EST, story 3, 5:25, Muir) on the strike on the Kyiv mall, calling it "the largest and deadliest strike yet on the capital," with at least 8 dead. Reuters (3/21) reports Russia claimed that the mall was hit because it was being used to store rockets.

Bloomberg (3/21) reports Russia "is refocusing its military campaign in Ukraine on the east and above all the port city of Mariupol, in a drive to seize territories at the heart of what may become a narrower set of war aims for President Vladimir Putin." Reuters (3/21, Polityuk, Mackenzie) reports Ukraine "said on Monday it would not obey ultimatums from Russia after Moscow demanded it stop defending besieged Mariupol, where hundreds of thousands of civilians are suffering through Russian bombardments laying waste to their city." President Volodymyr Zelensky's government "responded that it would never bow to ultimatums and said cities such as the capital Kyiv, Mariupol and Kharkiv would always defy occupation." Imtiaz Tyap reported for The CBS Evening News  (3/21, 6:36 p.m. EST, story 2, 3:20, O'Donnell), "Despite the dire warnings, President Zelenskyy remains defiant, saying he is refusing to allow any Russian soldiers to occupy any Ukrainian city, despite the horrific damage we have seen."

The Times (UK) (3/22, Spencer) reports the Russian defense ministry warned inhabitants of Mariupol, "who had earlier rejected a deadline to surrender, that they faced being brought before a 'military tribunal.'" In London Oleksii Reznikov, the Ukrainian defense minister, "said that Mariupol was fighting not only for itself but Ukraine and Europe. 'By virtue of their dedication and superhuman courage, tens of thousands of lives throughout Ukraine were saved,' he said at a press conference with Ben Wallace, the defence secretary."

The AP (3/21, Anna) reports that as Mariupol's defenders "held out Monday against Russian demands that they surrender, the number of bodies in the rubble of the bombarded and encircled Ukrainian city remained shrouded in uncertainty, the full extent of the horror not yet known."

Richard Engel reported for NBC Nightly News  (3/21, 6:31 p.m. EST, lead story, 3:25, Holt), "In Russian occupied Kherson, new images show protesters refusing to back down, until Russian troops open fire, mostly in the air, to disperse the crowds. Kherson is a Russian-speaking city, Russia assumed it would fall easily." The New York Times (3/21, Jimenez) reports that in a video address early on Tuesday, Zelensky "condemned Russian attacks on protesters in the city of Kherson in the south and strikes in the Zaporizhzhia region in the southeast, where four children were hospitalized."

El País (ESP) (3/22) reports that Ukraine has claimed to kill a number of high-ranking officers, some of whose deaths Russia has confirmed.

Politico (3/21, McLeary, Brown) interviewed military analyst Michael Kofman, who said that while the Russian military has performed poorly so far, he “has some cautions. One, it’s too soon to count Putin out. Initial battle successes don’t win a war, and in fact the most critical juncture of the war will arrive soon, in about two weeks, when a burned-out Russian military will need to mount a major resupply effort in order to keep going. And two, he’s careful to note that social media is giving us a distorted view of what’s actually taking place on the ground, with Ukraine eager to tout any triumph, and Russia intentionally quiet.”

Meanwhile, the New York Times (3/21, A1, Broad) reports on concerns that Russia might use low-yield nuclear weapons. The Times says that as President Biden travels to Europe this week, “The agenda is expected to include how the alliance will respond if Russia employs chemical, biological, cyber or nuclear weapons.”

***No Significant Progress In Talks.*** Keir Simmons reported for NBC Nightly News (3/21, 6:52 p.m. EST, story 9, 1:50, Holt), “Tonight, hopes fading of a meeting between Russia’s President Putin and Ukrainian President Zelensky. Zelensky had warned without those talks, Europe faces a descent into World War III. The Kremlin spokesperson saying ‘no significant progress has been made in the negotiations so far.’”

***WSJournal Report: US Transferring Soviet-Era Anti-Aircraft Missiles To Ukraine.*** In an “exclusive,” the Wall Street Journal (3/21, A1, Youssef, Gordon) reports that the US is sending some of the Soviet-made air defense systems it “secretly” acquired in years past to bolster the Ukrainian military. The systems include tactical SA-8 missile launchers, though apparently not the longer-ranged S-300 system that the US acquired from Belarus in the 1990s.

***Boot: Ukraine Appears To Be Winning.*** Max Boot writes in the Washington Post (3/21) that “the situation is going from bad to worse for Russian dictator Vladimir Putin.” Boot says this is “a fiasco for Putin, and that grim reality cannot be disguised by the fascist-style arena extravaganza he staged on Friday featuring state workers press-ganged into showing support for the ‘special military operation.’ ... Russian troop morale is said to be plunging as their difficulties multiply. Russian casualties are overwhelming morgues and hospitals in Belarus. ... The equipment losses are staggering.” Putin “can’t hang on indefinitely if his army continues to suffer heavy losses; he won’t have much of a military left.” His “choices appear to be whether to lose quickly or slowly. Against all odds, the Ukrainians are actually winning.”

## **Germany Expecting Up To A Million Ukrainian Refugees.**

Bloomberg (3/21, Reiter) reports that with the UN estimating that more than 3.4 million Ukrainians having fled their country, the refugees are now moving out of the states bordering the conflict and into the rest of Europe. Germany is now anticipating as many as 1 million refugees, “roughly triple its previous expectation of 340,000, according to a report by the Bild newspaper. As of Monday, more than 225,000 Ukrainian refugees had arrived in Germany, the Interior Ministry said.”

More broadly, the Washington Post (3/21) reports the “exodus from Ukraine has become Europe’s fastest-growing refugee crisis since World War II. The European Union’s latest unprecedented measures will allow Ukrainians temporary protection anywhere in the 27-country bloc for up to three years – bypassing an asylum system that left others fleeing Africa and the Middle East in years-long limbo.”

Meanwhile, NBC Nightly News (3/21, 6:37 p.m. EST, story 3, 2:25, Holt) reported on Ukrainians fleeing to the Carpathian mountains in the southwest of the country, “an area mostly untouched by the war for now.”

## **Grossi: Deal Near On Securing Ukraine's Nuclear Facilities.**

Politico Europe (3/21, Guillot) reports the IAEA "is closing in on a deal to guarantee the safety and security of nuclear facilities in Ukraine, according to its chief Rafael Mariano Grossi." Grossi told European lawmakers, "We are negotiating, we are approaching what we want to be the final stages of our consultations," adding that he hoped to reach a deal "very soon."

Meanwhile, Reuters (3/21) reports the "remaining members of the one shift of technical staff who had been on duty at Chernobyl's radioactive waste facilities since Russian forces seized the site last month have been relieved, the U.N. nuclear watchdog said on Monday." The IAEA said in a statement, "Ukraine's regulatory authority said about half of the outgoing shift of technical staff left the site of the 1986 accident yesterday and the rest followed today, with the exception of thirteen staff members who declined to rotate."

## **NATO Seeks To Secure Access To Baltic Members.**

Reuters (3/21, Siebold, Emmott) looks at NATO's efforts to ensure that its three Baltic members are not encircled by Russia and cut off from the rest of the alliance, primarily through keeping the sea lines of communication open. Reuters says that Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, "with a combined population of some six million people, have a single overland link to the alliance's main territory. A corridor of some 65 km (40 miles) is squeezed between the heavily armed Russian exclave of Kaliningrad on the west and Belarus on the east."

## **Report: Russians Having Harder Time Getting Asylum In US.**

In a video report, The Hill (3/21) says immigrant advocates say that while the US continues to welcome those fleeing Ukraine, "asylum seekers from Russia, including those who oppose the Putin regime, are now having a harder time getting in."

## **WSJournal Praises European Nations Moving To Rearm.**

In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (3/21) says that while most European NATO members are pledging to boost defense spending in the wake of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, not all are being explicit about when they will do so and by how much. Overall, the Journal says that the public moves are a good sign.

© 2022 Cision. All rights reserved, excluding third-party content. Reproduction or redistribution without permission prohibited. Third-party content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Any reach data cited here by SimilarWeb represents site traffic data of worldwide unique visitors on desktop for the last month available. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the respective platform's terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva's terms of use. Services including embedded Tweets are also subject to Twitter for Website's information and privacy policies.